

# Our Opinion

## Day to remember

Never forget.

Remembrance Day is approaching and hopefully millions across the country and around the world will take time to reflect.

It's easy to get caught up in our daily frenzy of activities and let this poignant day slip by, but in a world all too familiar with conflict that's not acceptable.

It's important to remember that lives lost in war - long ago or more recently - were not lost in vain.

And it's also important to honour those who fought and survived, still living with the haunting images of war.

Losing young people from our own country these days strikes a chord not only with Canadians in general, but with younger citizens in particular.

When the world is in relative peace, Remembrance Day can be a difficult day for youth, not to mention many adults to relate to.

Too often it turns into another day off, just to sit around and keep oneself occupied with chores or a bunch of other events until we head back to the office November 12.

And even though folks might go through the motions of attending services, the concept of war and loss is hard to connect with when things seem peaceful.

Those basking in prosperity and peace can feel far removed from what it cost to provide them, at least in part with their comfortable circumstances.

It can be even tougher if you don't have a relative or family friend who fought in battle.

You don't have the rich opportunity to learn first hand what it was like to endure such unimaginable, frightening circumstances.

But with the current loss of young men and women overseas hitting the headlines almost daily, the meanings of Remembrance Day are close to home.

We grieve for these young lives recently lost, and are reminded of the loss of thousands of Canadians who gave their lives during the First and Second World Wars, the Korean conflict and peacekeeping missions around the world.

We are reminded of the millions who lost their lives around the world as well. Some known and specifically honoured for what they gave, some tragically lost in the haze of time. But no matter when the losses happened - in the 1930s, the 1950s or today, families and friends are united in their grief.

That brings to mind another characteristic of Remembrance Day - we're united in a common cause no matter what our background or personal connection to the concepts of war.

There are services across Central Alberta to take part in, organized by local branches of the Royal Canadian Legion.

It's a wonderful thing to see people of all ages attend these services and help keep this priceless tradition alive.

Ultimately, too much has been lost and too high a price has been paid for anyone to have careless attitudes about such an important day.

Remember  
those who  
sacrificed...



Pray  
no more  
will be  
needed.

Nelson  
DeJury

## Six feet under and no place to go

Normally I do not respond to Letters to the Editor, as I believe readers should be given the right and courtesy to sound off without worry of subsequent babble from newspaper writers who work in comfort and luxury of always having the last word.

But Tim Lasiuta's letter in the *Express* last week struck an interesting chord.

His thoughtful point of view about the loss of heritage in the community at the expense of progress is timely, not only in relation to the Arlington Hotel but to any pioneer institution that has or is facing demolition and government indifference for our past.

Last week we also reported on the archaeological dig at the long forgotten cemetery near the former Red Deer Industrial School site.

The Alberta government is putting forth the impression the site has to be fully assessed in order for a proposed 55-lot residential development to proceed. I suppose this is to immediately remove any notion by some that the province cares more about progress than its history.

But this week we can



Johnnie  
**BACHUSKY**

report on another example of what appears to be government indifference to our past, of what Lasiuta so passionately and eloquently mourns about in his letter.

There are two additional final resting place sites in Red Deer - the city's very first graveyard when it was just a little frontier village as well as a pioneer First Nations cemetery, that have apparently been lost or forgotten or just ignored.

In the early 1990s, the graveyards, located near the intersection of Taylor Dr. and 43 St., were casually paved over - with apparent provincial government consent - when the area was redeveloped.

This is the same site where fugitive killer Ole Mickelson was buried after losing a sensational gun battle to authorities in 1892. He was accidentally dug up in 1952 when they were

building the Brewery building.

No one knows what happened to his remains after that. It is also the final resting place of Marcella Clemons DeJournal, the young daughter of Ferdinand, a local pioneer who once ran a store in Red Deer and then left to the Klondike to earn a fortune. He ended up being a wealthy lawyer in San Francisco.

It certainly sounds to me like there is significant historical stuff here.

On a more personal note, the two cemeteries are quite possibly under the old Brewery building here at the *Express*. The thought of typing out this column while forgotten bodies are possibly under my desk is a bit unnerving.

It is likely that visitors to the Brewery walk over the final resting places of many each and every day.

And when you are driving your vehicle near the corner of Taylor Dr. and 43 St. you are most certainly moving over the grave sites of local pioneer citizens.

Kind of a chilling thought isn't it?

But Michael Dawe, the city's most excellent histo-

rian and chief archivist at the Red Deer and District Archives, is calling on the province to right a wrong he insists it made 18 years ago - choosing not to undertake a historical assessment of the two cemeteries when asked.

This request, says Dawe, was made as the city was undertaking a major development on the west side of the city for the construction of Taylor Dr.

What is interesting here is that while the province is now showing admirable interest in the welfare of cemeteries, including the one near the old Red Deer Industrial School site, it apparently had no interest 18 years ago in ensuring Red Deer's first cemetery received protection.

Dawe says engineers working on the project were told by the Alberta government the province had no record of any cemetery near the corner of what is now Taylor Dr. and 43 St. End of story - let the development and progress go ahead at full speed.

Today government officials are saying it never received the information about the cemeteries in 1990.

But the Alberta government, now wanting everyone to believe it deeply cares about the province's heritage, is claiming it does care about Red Deer's very first final resting place and that Dawe or any city official can make it known to government that it wants a full assessment at the site.

The problem is that we have two provincial government departments in the mix - the Culture and Community Spirit, and Service Alberta ministries.

The former watches over Alberta's historical resources while the latter claims to be guardian of the province's cemeteries.

But in a province where government ministries change their names and mandates as often as changing their clothes does it really surprise anyone that Edmonton officials can't find the original request about the cemeteries?

Add bureaucratic red tape to this mix, and it is difficult to believe any sort of assessment will ever be made.

It's enough of a headache to cause Ole Mickelson to roll over in his grave - wherever that now is.

jbachusky@reddeer.greatwest.ca (403-309-5456)

Red Deer  
**express**

www.reddeerexpress.com

#121, 5301 - 43 St  
Red Deer, Ab.  
T4N 1C8

Phone: 403-346-3356  
Fax: 403-347-6620

Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday  
8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Publisher  
**Graham Schofield**  
Editor  
**Sean McCann**  
Marketing Manager  
**Deanna Caswell**  
Production Manager  
**Murray Wieting**  
Circulation Manager  
**Bob Grainger**

### Newsroom

If you have a news item you feel may be of interest call 403-309-5455

email: news@reddeer.greatwest.ca

### Sports

Phone: 403-309-5452

email: sports@reddeer.greatwest.ca

### Classified Advertising

Phone: 403-346-3356

email: classifieds@reddeer.greatwest.ca

### Display Advertising

Phone: 403-346-3356

email: advertising@reddeer.greatwest.ca

### Accounting

Phone: 403-309-5451

### Photo Reprints

Forms are available at the Express office or by calling reception at 403-346-3356

**Copyright.** No material - news, photographs or advertising - may be reproduced without the express written consent of the Publisher. Failure to obtain such consent may result in legal action without further notice.

### Delivery Concerns?

The Red Deer Express is delivered every Wednesday. If you have not received your copy by 6pm Wednesday, please call 403-309-5470.

email: readers@reddeer.greatwest.ca

### Subscriptions

Annual Subscription rates are \$45CDN, which covers postal costs. To subscribe, please call 403-346-3356.

email: readers@reddeer.greatwest.ca

The Red Deer Express is a proud newspaper of

**Great West**  
NEWSPAPERS LP

Alberta  
Weekly Newspapers  
Association

CNA  
2006  
BLUE  
RIBBON

CNA

Do you have a concern or complaint about a newspaper article or ad?

This newspaper is a sponsoring member of the Alberta Press Council. As a non-judicial, non-government review board made up of public and press members, the council considers all complaints filed within nine months of publication from the public about the conduct and performance of its member newspapers. If, after bringing your concerns to the attention of the paper, you are not satisfied, you may contact the Alberta Press Council in writing at:

Box 21067, Edmonton, AB.  
T6R 2V4

Attention: B. Ardiel,  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
Phone: 780-434-9989  
Fax 780-435-0441  
Email: abpress@telus.net



Canadian  
Media Circulation  
Audit